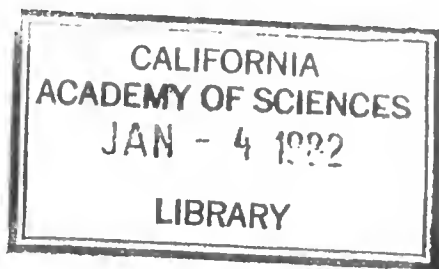


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# the gull

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January 1982

Number 1

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## Whales!

Our January general membership meeting will be on the giants who dwell in the ocean — the whales. This informative meeting is just in time for all those who are interested in the California Gray Whales which migrate along the coast during the winter.

The featured speaker will be Lyle Bennett, president of the Marin Chapter of the American Cetacean Society. Lyle has ardently studied whales for over ten years and is involved with cetacean education and Cetacean Creations in Marin County.

His presentation will cover whales from their biology to their historical and often tragic relationship with man. It will feature a slide show of whales and some of the common sea birds seen on whale-watching trips. Lyle will have some whale information sheets, posters, baleen samples and a Gray Whale model for a closer look at this marine mammal.

The meeting will take place on Thursday, January 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the Golden Gate Room of the Travelodge at the Wharf, 250 Beach St. (near Pier 39) in San Francisco. There is ample free parking available in the upper Travelodge parking lot. The room is off the courtyard and swimming pool.

Bring family and friends!

—PROGRAM COMMITTEE

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## Field Trips Calendar

See the December *Gull* for details on the following trip:

**Saturday, January 9—Palo Alto Baylands.** (*See article beginning on page 9.*)

**Wednesday, January 13—Mini-trip to Lake Merritt** to see wintering waterfowl. Meet at **9:30 a.m.** at the Rotary Science Building at the north end of the Lake. Bring scopes. Rain will cancel trip. Lunch optional. Leaders: Ruth Voss (525-8032) and Delpha deTimofeev.

**Saturday, January 16—Owl Trip.** Meet at **3 a.m.** Call GGAS (843-2222) for details. Trip limited to first 20 persons who call.

**Saturday, January 16—Carizzo Plain.** From the Bay Area drive south on Hwy. 101 to Paso Robles or south on I-5 to Kettleman City. Lodging is available at both places. Meet at **8:30 a.m.** at Cholame on Hwy. 46, about 24 miles east of Paso Robles. Driving time is four and one-half to five hours so we suggest you plan to arrive Friday evening. We will bird all day so you may wish to stay in the area Saturday night. Bring lunch, liquids, warm clothes and perhaps a spotting scope. This area is excellent for Sandhill Cranes, a wide variety of raptors, Mountain Plover and longspurs. We will not only see birds but will also discuss the flora and geology of the area. The San Andreas Fault is an outstanding feature here.

Considering the length of the drive and the possibility of poor weather (high winds or snow), it is possible this trip will be canceled at the last minute. It will also be called off if there is no interest. It is therefore important to notify Shirley Kelly (387-8290) if you plan to attend. Leave a phone number where you can be reached so she can notify you if the trip is canceled. Leader: Eben McMillan. (✓)

Motels: Kettleman City: Olive Tree Inn, 209-386-9530; Paso Robles: Best Western Black Oak Motor Lodge, 805-238-4740; Paso Robles Inn, 805-238-2660.

**Saturday, January 23—Grizzly and Joice Islands Wildlife Area.** Take I-80 north to Fairfield, exit at West Texas St. and continue to the right (east) for about ½ mile to the Fairfield City Park. Meet at the parking lot on the right at **8:30 a.m.** We will caravan from there to the refuge area. We should see a variety of waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors and marshbirds. Bring lunch. Leader: Peter Allen (981-7199). (✓)

**Sunday, January 24—Sacramento Delta (Woodbridge Road).** Meet at **9 a.m.** at the Park and Ride Lot at the Junction of I-5 and Hwy.

12 about 5 miles south of Thornton. The best map of this area is the AAA Sacramento Valley Region map. Bring lunch, liquids and a scope if you have one. This is a good trip for beginners. Carpooling is recommended. We will look for Sandhill Cranes, Whistling Swans, Marsh Hawks, Burrowing Owls, Horned Larks and other birds common to grassy fields. Leader: John Zawaski (771-5335).

**Saturday, January 30—Chain of Lakes, Golden Gate Park.** Meet at 9 a.m. at North Lake near the 43rd Ave. and Fulton St. entrance to the Park. The Chain of Lakes is excellent for ducks. We may see Wood Duck. Landbirds are also plentiful. Lunch is optional. Leader: Erline Hevel (661-4251).

**Sunday, January 31—Dillon Beach.** Meet at 7:45 a.m. at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal, section H (just east of the Sir Francis Drake off-ramp from Hwy. 101). We will leave there promptly at 8 a.m. for the town of Tomales where we will stop by the Bank of America building on Hwy. 1 at 8:45 to meet birders from west Marin. From there we will continue to caravan to Lawson's Landing (entrance fee). Bring lunch, warm clothes, rain gear and a scope if you have one. We may see three species of loons, Red-necked Grebes, White Pelicans, Brants and Snowy Plovers. Golden Plovers are a possibility. Leader: Mary Louise Rosegay (386-1640). (✓)

**Saturday, February 6—Panoche Valley.** Meet at 8 a.m. at the intersection of Hwy. 25 and J-1 in Paicines, 12.5 miles south of Hollister. From there we will drive east to I-5 south of Los Banos. Bring lunch and warm clothes. Considering the distance involved in this trip be sure to fill your gas tank in Hollister and carpool from the Bay Area if at all possible. In the past we have seen Mountain Plover, Mountain Bluebirds, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Vesper Sparrow and Lewis' Woodpecker. Leader: Chris Carpenter (376-6802). (✓)

**Sunday, February 7—Los Banos State Refuge.** Meet at 9 a.m. at the refuge headquarters located 3 miles north of Los Banos on Henry Miller Rd. Allow 2 ½ to 3 hours driving time from the Bay Area. Considering the distance involved in this trip, be sure to fill your gas tank before the trip and carpool from the Bay Area if at all possible. Bring lunch and warm clothes. We will look for White-faced Ibis, Sandhill Cranes, Bald Eagles and assorted waterfowl. We suggest that people interested in both the Panoche Valley and Los Banos field trips spend Saturday night in Los Banos. Leaders: Peter and Dolores White (229-1714). (✓)

**Beginners' Trip—Saturday, January 16—Bay Park Refuge, Oakland.** Meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot at the north end of Bay Park

Refuge for a morning of leisurely birding. This trip will be appropriate for beginners. From Hwy. 17 take the Hegenberger Rd. exit, go right (north) on Edgewater Dr. for about one mile to the park. Spotting scopes are desirable for this trip. Luncheon is optional. We should see a variety of ducks and shorebirds. Leader: Dave Cornman (825-2106).

**Carpooling arrangements** can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge at 524-9817 and leave a message. She will call you.

**Problems:** If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

## Room Left on Snake River Trip

Space is still available on the GGAS-sponsored non-whitewater rafting trip May 9-13, 1982, into the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area in southwestern Idaho. This area hosts the highest density of nesting raptors in the world, including up to 200 pairs of Prairie Falcons in a 35-mile stretch of the river. It is also a keystone in what has come to be known as the Sagebrush Rebellion. Some 160+ species of birds have been observed in the area, with as many as 85 species in a single day on a similar trip last May. Raptor nesting is at its peak in May and spring migration is in full swing. Cost of the trip is \$450 per person which includes all expenses except transportation to and from Boise and lodging in Boise pre- and post-trip. The trip is limited to 20 participants. For further details, contact the GGAS office. GGAS president Jon Zablaekis will lead the trip.

## Bird Texas in April

A few spaces are available on a birding trip to Texas April 17 to May 2, 1982. We will spend one week in the lower Rio Grande Valley and another on the Texas coast at the height of migration. Cost is \$225 per person plus expenses. Leaders are Joe Morlan and Chris Carpenter. For information and reservations, call Joe Morlan at 524-7421.

## November Observations — through November 24

A very rainy November also became a cold one late in the month. The vagrant landbird season ended abruptly in the first few days and most rarities were expected wintering species. Minimal evidence of a montane irruption came from Northern Shrike, Mountain Bluebird and perhaps Saw-whet Owl.



## WATERBIRDS

The month's only Monterey Bay boat trip found a Flesh-footed Shearwater Nov. 15 (JML, *et al.*). Cattle Egrets arrived on schedule: three at Bolinas Lagoon Nov. 5-6 (BY), five along Old Stage Rd., Salinas, Nov. 8 (JB), one at Hall Ranch Nov. 8 (AG, WG), five near Pigeon Pt., Nov. 14 (BiB) and one in San Jose Nov. 22 (DSc). An immature Whistling Swan strayed to Crespi Pond, Pacific Grove, Nov. 4 (BF, MN). Swans are very rare on the coast south of the Bay Area. The male Tufted Duck was still on Horseshoe Pond Oct. 29 (IT) and both male and female appeared at Muddy Hollow about that time (SP, *fide* RS). On Nov. 8 a male and female were on Horseshoe Pond (BB). This is probably the same pair; these sites are only three miles apart. Perhaps the Pt. Reyes Christmas Count will clarify this. Harlequin Ducks appeared at usual locations: Moss Landing, Monterey Peninsula and Salt Point (2) (mob). Besides their known waters, Barrow's Goldeneyes were noted on Clifton Court Forebay, a likely spot for regular occurrence. One was shot Nov. 8 (*fide* BR) and three others were seen Nov. 12 (BR).

American Golden Plovers consistently favor fields where Drakes Beach Rd. meets Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Four had been there for weeks (mob) when they were joined by 14 new arrivals Nov. 22 (AG, WG). It will be interesting to note which if either group winters. The first sighting of Rock Sandpiper was at Bodega Head Nov. 7 (JR, *et al.*). The next day brought another one-day **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** to Mendoza Pond (RS, *et al.*). For a non-wreck year, the Red Phalarope at Stockton Sewage Ponds Nov. 18-21 (BR, DY) was far inland. This increasingly-watched location again lured rare gulls. Both the **Black-headed Gull** and the **Little Gull** returned for a fourth consecutive winter. Found Nov. 10 (JR, mob), both were still in evidence two weeks later (AG, WG, mob). First year Franklin's Gulls accumulated there, beginning with one Nov. 10 (JR, mob), with three by Nov. 13 (BR) and five Nov. 24 (AG, WG, DY, mob). Another Franklin's Gull was at Monterey Fisherman's Wharf Nov. 15 (JML, *et al.*). A Common Tern at Alameda South Shore Nov. 14 was late (JM).

## CARNIVORES AND INSECTIVORES

An adult Bald Eagle visited Drakes Beach Nov. 8 (KHan, DC) and an immature surprised observers by cruising around Golden Gate Park, Sutro Heights Park and Cliff House Nov. 10-12 (PG, JH, *et al.*). A Saw-whet Owl was spotted at Nunes Ranch Oct. 28 (AG, WG). Our latest Tropical Kingbirds were Oct. 30 at Sutro Baths (NB) and Oct. 31 at Pt. Reyes Willows (BR, *fide* GH). Probably the stormy November discouraged arrival and lingering of this bird. Mountain Bluebirds returned to

eastern Contra Costa County, with one at Armstrong Rd. Nov. 4 (BR) and 12 along Camino Diablo Nov. 20 (JR). Northern Shrikes were at Abbott's Lagoon Nov. 5 (DS, JE) and Palomarin Nov. 11-12 (BY, PRBO).

The final tiny wave of eastern vagrant warblers occurred Oct. 28-31 on outer Pt. Reyes. As is often the case with the more common vagrants here, the Palm Warblers may include duplicate sightings, a single bird found at different ranches on different days. The Black-and-white Warbler in willows at the base of Limantour Rd. probably represents an individual returning to its traditional winter home.

**Black-and-white Warbler (total new 3; 28 for fall)**

1	between Limantour & Bear Valley Rds.	Nov. 2	DS
(1)	North Lake, G.G. Park	(Oct. 16)-Nov. 8	NB, DM
1	near Panhandle of G.G. Park	Nov. 19	HL
1	Carmel River Mouth	Nov. 5	SH

**Worm-eating Warbler (total 1; 2 for fall)**

1	Nunes Ranch	Oct. 28-29	BY, IT, JE
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**Tennessee Warbler (total 1; 21+ for fall)**

1	Nunes Ranch	Oct. 28	BY, IT
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**Palm Warbler (total 7; 78++ for fall)**

5	outer Point Reyes	Oct. 28-31	mob
1	Abbott's Lagoon	Nov. 5	DS, JE
1	Bolinas Sewage Ponds	early Nov.	DDeS, <i>fide</i> RS

**American Redstart (total 1; 55 for fall)**

1	Nunes Ranch	Oct. 28	AG, WG, BY
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## GRANIVORES

The **Common Skylark** returned to the Hall Ranch fields for the fourth consecutive winter. Found Nov. 3 (TG), it was still there Nov. 22 (AG, WG) but was hard to find. Apparently it spent most of its time in unbirded fields and Nov. 7 it was seen flying north over the ranch (SM, *et al.*). A Bobolink at Abbott's Lagoon Nov. 5 (DS, JE) was very late and not expected in the same day with a Northern Shrike. An immature Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Palomarin Nov. 4 (PRBO). Nov. 19-22 a late Clay-colored Sparrow visited a yard in Pt. Reyes Station (BG, JE), where this species has lingered into December and January. Three Swamp Sparrows were reported: Five Brooks Pond Oct. 31 (PW), near Shields Salt Marsh Nov. 3 (TG) and Pt. Reyes Willows Nov. 8 (DY, DD, KH). Paralleling the Skylark's elusiveness and probably due to altered field conditions, longspurs were very scarce at Hall Ranch. A single Lapland was found Nov. 7 (JW) and two were there Nov. 22 (AG, WG). Two Chestnut-collareds on Nov. 7 (SM, *et al.*) were the only ones reported.

**Corrigendum:** Photographs show that the two Magnificent Frigate-

birds previously published (p. 141) as an adult female and an immature were actually both immatures. Adults are very rare in our area.

**Observers:** Bruce Barrett (BB), Bill Bausman (BiB), Neil Blank, June Buntin, Robert Campbell, Doug Cook, Dave DeSante, Donna Dittmann, Jules Evens, Barbara Fox, Al Ghiorso, Wilma Ghiorso, Ben Glading, Pedro Gonzales, "Tuesday Group," Kem Hainbeach (KH), Keith Hanson (KHan), Sid Harrison, Kevin Hintsa, Jud Howell, George Hugenberg, Jeri M. Langham, Hal Lenninger, Alice Mericourt, Steve Miller, many observers (mob), Joe Morlan, Dan Murphy, Margot Nelson, Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, Susan Peasley, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Don Schmoltdt (DSc), Dennis Serdehely (thanks to Dennis for Monterey Bay report), Dave Shuford (DS), Rich Stallcup, Maury Stern, Irene Tomasi, Jack Whetstone, Peter White, David Yee, Bob Yutzy.

—STEPHEN F. BAILEY, *Observations Editor*  
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology  
University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720  
(phone 548-9507 or 524-7421)

**CALL FOR OLD GULLS**—Your Observations Editor has a collection of most back issues of *The Gull* which he uses as a historical reference of past bird reports. His run is complete except for 1961 through 1967, which are almost totally missing. If anyone has any issues from these seven years that could be donated to Steve, he would be most grateful.

## Conservation Notes

### MONO LAKE BENEFIT DRAWING WINNERS

In spite of the cloudburst weather, the November 12th GGAS general meeting was a resounding success for the 150+ persons who braved the elements. The hall was festively decorated, the food and drinks were special and the music by Monophiles Mike Green and David Winkler was an unusual treat.

Winners in the benefit drawing were: Mono Lake quilt, Karen Rogers of Mill Valley; Gomke watercolor, Harriet Stull of Berkeley; Beaucage photo of Mono Lake, Hope Nathan of Eugene, Oregon; cross-country skis, W. C. Meyer of Oakland; Pelican Inn dinner, Sissy Haet of San Anselmo; Galen Rowell book, Moore family of Santa Rosa; Chris Jones book, S. Sommer of Lafayette; Parkinson book, Nora Norden of San Francisco; Carole Terwilliger Meyers book, Robin and Mimi Pulich of Berkeley; shorebird carving, Shay Griffen of Stockton.

Next month's *Gull* will have a report on the final results of the year-long campaign GGAS has waged to help save Mono Lake.

—AFTON CROOKS, *Mono Lake Subcommittee*

## CAN AND BOTTLE INITIATIVE

The Conservation Committee has contributed \$100 to assist in the costs of publicizing the benefits to be gained by passage of the Can and Bottle Initiative and your Board of Directors has voted unanimously to endorse the bill.

Your help is also needed to get this environmentally sound initiative on the ballot in June of 1982 and passed by the voters. If you can help gather signatures, forms are available in the GGAS office. Be sure your own signature appears!

—CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

## Continued Support Needed by MLC

Thank you, GGAS, for the hugely successful Mono Lake quilt raffle! Let's keep the momentum going. The Mono Lake Committee is planning some major activities in the Bay Area during the next several months and we need your continued help. Can you volunteer to write letters, make phone calls, visit a local legislator or help with a benefit? If so, let's get together. We will hold a strategy meeting in January to get acquainted and coordinate our efforts. Call Chris Swarth, Bay Area coordinator of the Mono Lake Committee, at 849-2053 for more details.

## Ideological Eunuchs?

An old memo being circulated in Washington casts light on the attitudes of the man who has been promoted to chief of conservation for the U.S. Geological Survey — the Interior Department office responsible for regulating oil and mineral development on federal lands. He is Andrew V. Bailey who, in a lower post in that agency in 1976, signed a memo chiding its environmental section for using the word "disturbed" to describe strip-mined lands.

"Inflammatory words such as disturbed, devastated, defiled, ravaged, gouged, scarred and destroyed should not be used," the memo reads. "These are words used by the Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, environmentalists, homosexuals, ecologists and other ideological eunuchs opposed to developing mineral resources . . . Certainly there should be a better word than 'disturbed' to describe land utilized and altered in production of coal."

Most people who have seen unreclaimed strip-mines will agree there are better words than "disturbed" to describe them.

—AUDUBON LEADER, November 20, 1981



## Birding Classes

### ALBANY ADULT SCHOOL

Do you know which birds sing only to the female of their choice? And who sings in the middle of winter? In a class, *Why Birds Sing*, Marie Mans will explore these and many other interesting questions about the meaning and identification of birds' sounds. Illustrated with examples of common birds of the East Bay using tapes and slides, the class is suitable for beginning bird students and anyone interested in the sounds of nature. The cost is \$15 for two evening classes (January 28 and February 4) and two Saturday field trips. Call Albany Adult School, 526-6811, to register.

Dr. Stephen F. Bailey's bird classes at Albany Adult School begin early this month: *Wintering Sparrows and Finches* on January 6 and *Owls* on January 13. See the December *Gull* for details or call Steve at 548-9507.

### PIEDMONT ADULT SCHOOL

Chris Swarth, who has worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, will teach two ornithology classes during the eight-week winter quarter.

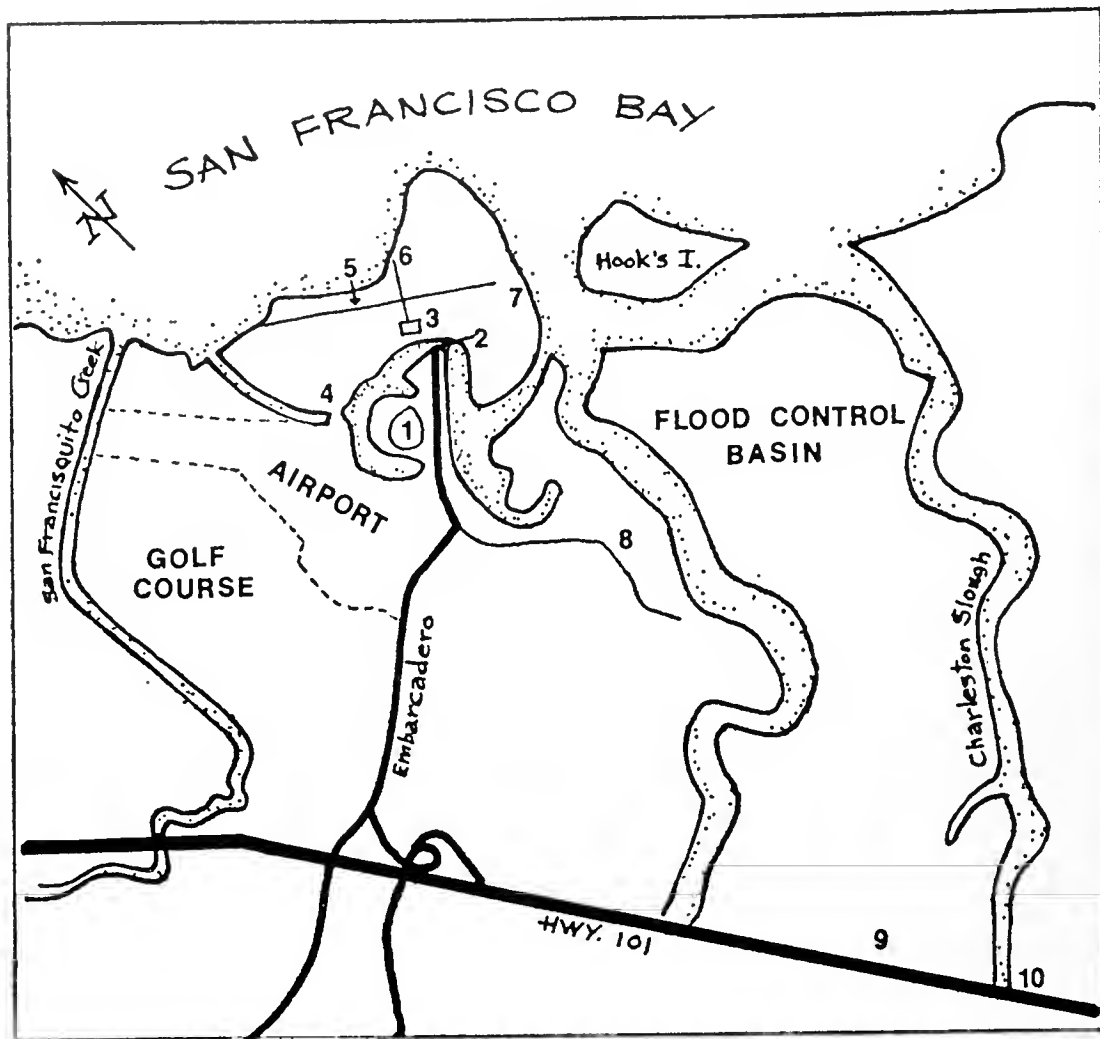
*Wednesday Morning Bird Watching* begins Wednesday, January 13. Class hours are 9 a.m. to noon. We will meet in a variety of different locations and visit some of the best spots in the Bay Area to view our wintering birds.

*Bird Study* begins Thursday, January 14. Class hours are 7 to 9:30 p.m. This slide/lecture discussion will cover migration, behavior, distribution, identification and other topics. Several weekend field trips are planned.

To pre-register, call Piedmont Adult School at 653-9454. For more information call Chris at 849-2053.

## Birding the Palo Alto Baylands Refuge and Flood Control Basin

Palo Alto Baylands Refuge and the nearby Flood Control Basin are excellent birding sites the year round. The attractions here are seasonal visitors and permanent resident birds which can be seen in good numbers even during summer when birding slows down elsewhere in the Bay



Area. It is not uncommon to find 50 to 60 species during the winter and 25 or more during the summer months.

From any point in the Bay Area go to Palo Alto via Hwy. 101 and exit on Embarcadero Rd. East. Drive east .6 mile to the end of the road, turn left and continue past the airport to the duck pond on the left (.9 mi.). #1

The pond is a good place to look for common ducks and gulls. This is an especially good area to study Ring-billed Gulls in all plumages. Mallards, American Wigeons and American Coots dominate the waterfowl flock but Gadwall, Common Golden-eye, Lesser Scaup, Northern Shoveler and other ducks may also be seen. Be sure to scan the back shore of the pond for gulls, including Western, Glaucous-winged, California and Thayer's, assorted shorebirds and waders. Circle to the right behind the pond. Check the trees and shrubs to the left for blackbirds—Red-winged, Tricolored and Brewer's—Common Yellowthroat, Savannah

and Song Sparrows. Rails can sometimes be found in the marsh areas. Western and Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Canvasback, Ruddy Duck, Pintail, Bufflehead and a variety of other ducks frequent the open water. The mudflats are used by many waders and shorebirds including Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Willet, Marbled Godwit, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Dunlin and both dowitchers. Check the flock of gulls for Thayer's Gull which may be found here in winter. Blue-winged Teal can usually be found at the south east end of this area across from the east end of the pond. Look for Burrowing Owl and Ring-necked Pheasant along the edges of the airport, though the former have declined recently and may be extirpated by this time.

Go east to the parking area just past the Yacht Harbor (.2 mi.). #2 Check for Horned and Western Grebes, Common Goldeneye and gulls between the boats. A few Least and Western Sandpipers may be seen along the shore here. Walk to the north along the dike which passes the Palo Alto Baylands Interpretive Center. #3 Great and Snowy Egret, Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Northern Shoveler and Green-winged, Cinnamon and Blue-winged Teal may be seen in the marsh. Marsh Hawk and White-tailed Kite may be seen flying low or hovering over the area. Common Snipe are uncommon but Long-billed and Short-billed Dowitchers should be seen and heard.

When you reach the large culvert at the end of the marsh, #4, check the edges of the airport for Burrowing Owl, Common Snipe, Killdeer and other birds. The shrubs along the ditch are good for Anna's Hummingbird, House Finch, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow and there are a few records for Swamp Sparrow. Walk north along the dike at least to the end of the airport runway. Check the open water for European Wigeon and the previously mentioned ducks. Greater Scaup may be seen toward the end of the marsh.

Return to the Interpretive Center and walk out toward the Bay on the boardwalk. Watch for Glaucous-winged, Herring, California, Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls, as well as Forster's and Caspian Terns. Perpendicular to the main boardwalk is another walkway without handrails. If the winter tide is high (especially if it exceeds 6'), this is an excellent area to look for Clapper Rail, Black-crowned Night Heron, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat and the endemic "Salt Marsh" Song Sparrow. The rare Black Rail and Sharp-tailed Sparrow may be seen during such winter tides. The most productive part of the boardwalk for birding is between the first and second tower to the north of the gate. #5 High tide may flood parts of the boardwalk and

may cause extensively muddy conditions on the dikes, so it is wise to wear waterproof boots or slip-proof shoes which will not be ruined by salt water.

If the tide is low go to the end of the boardwalk, #6, and check the shoreline for shorebirds. Rafts of ducks sometimes come in with the tide.

Upon returning to the parking lot drive to the right (south, .2 mi.) and check the open water from the parking lot at the end of the road. #7 Ducks and a few shorebirds or waders may be seen here.

If you are interested in gulls drive back to Embarcadero Rd. and continue south to the refuse area. #8 Thousands of Glaucous-winged, Herring, Western, California and Ring-billed Gulls can be seen here. There are also a few records for the rare Glaucous Gull.

Drive back to Embarcadero Rd., go east to the last intersection controlled by a stoplight before the freeway (East Bayshore Rd./Frontage Rd.) and turn left. As you drive south check the first large field for Red-tailed Hawks and American Kestrels. Continue south to the next large open area; just south of the large pond you can park by a chained access road (1.2 mi.). #9 Check the pond for all previously mentioned ducks as well as Gadwall and Redhead. After checking the pond, walk east on the access road into the marsh. Marsh Hawks, White-tailed Kites, Burrowing Owls and Short-eared Owls may be seen flying in this area. In the weeds there may be Loggerhead Shrikes, Western Meadowlarks, House Finches, Lesser Goldfinches, Savannah, White-crowned and Song Sparrows. As you walk along the roads be sure to check each open water area for European Wigeons among the large numbers of American Wigeons.

Return to your car and continue to drive south (.2 mi.) to the end of the marsh. #10 Park off the pavement just before the bridge and walk out along the dike next to the building. If access is blocked here walk around to the right and go through the parking lot to El Camino Kennels where access may be available. Check for Common Gallinule along the edges of the tall marsh growth. Pied-billed Grebes nest here in summer. Walk past the kennels on your right, continue over the hikers' gate and bird Charleston Slough, the large open waterway on the right. The rare Little Blue Heron has been recorded here with some regularity since the mid 70s. Snowy Egret, Great Egret, Great Blue Heron and Black-crowned Night Heron should be seen here. Most of the previously mentioned ducks use this area as well. During the summer look for Caspian, Arctic and Least Terns, White Pelicans and early shorebirds.



A Black Skimmer was observed in this area in late July, 1978. Be prepared to walk about a mile on the dike before returning to your car.

This area is presently under development so landmarks may change fairly rapidly. The staff of the Baylands Interpretive Center are quite knowledgeable about the area and will probably be aware of any changes in the area. They also provide interpretive programs including nature walks, children's programs, workshops and films.

—DAN MURPHY

## The Back Yard Birder

Having bird feeders in your yard is a source of great entertainment and an opportunity to observe thoroughly your visitors. Even though our winters are relatively mild, the birds do become dependent upon our handouts. Keep an eye on the food level of your feeder.

The hummingbird in particular will suffer if you neglect feeding it. Because it expends so much energy, this tiny bird averages a meal every ten minutes and its daily sugar intake equals one-half of its weight. Half of its diet is made up of small flying insects while the other half is nectar. NEVER use honey in water; it can kill birds by promoting a fungus on the birds' tongues. Instead, mix one part sugar with four parts water and stir to dissolve. Boiling this mixture will prevent fermentation, but cool before filling the feeder. You need not color the water; bright decals will attract them. Since our winter resident hummingbird, Anna's, is one of the few species to breed and nest in the winter, it will appreciate your generosity. If there is a shortage of food, these clever birds slip into a torpid state when they roost at night. Their breathing slows and their body temperature drops to that near the outside air. Since some hummingbirds tend to monopolize one feeder, you may want to place several about.

Other than a simple seed-type feeder, you may want to whip up a gourmet treat for chickadees, nuthatches and titmice. Soften suet, then spread over a large pine cone and roll in bird seeds. When hung from a branch or from your home's eaves, this feeder will attract these tiny birds who will cling to feed, eliminating such greedy sots as jays, towhees, thrashers and English Sparrows.

If feeders aren't your bag, you can attract birds to your yard with a variety of plants. Hummingbirds love red flowering plants such as Bottle Brush and especially pendant types (fuchsia, red penstemons, and columbine). Pyracantha, toyon and cotoneaster berries are favorites of American Robins, Cedar Waxwings and other fruit-eating birds.

If the bird holds the berries in its crop too long, the berries ferment and the bird can become quite inebriated. You may want to put these inadvertent overindulgers in a safe room until they sober up! Water in a bird bath or a shallow pan will also attract crowds. By observation you will notice that some species prefer a morning dip, while others are bathers at dusk.

When natural foods reappear in the spring you may taper off at the feeders, but don't let the birds down in wintertime when they've become dependent upon you.

—MEG PAULETICH

If you would like to share information on bird behavior that you have observed or if you have a question about the birds that are commonly found in our area, write to Meg at 15 Sunnyside Ct., Orinda, CA 94563.

## News from The Ranch

The year 1982 has a special significance for Audubon Canyon Ranch. In 1961 plans for its founding were formulated and in 1962 it received its articles of incorporation. Each year thereafter new horizons were explored. Holdings on Bolinas Lagoon expanded from one canyon to four. Land and tidelands on Tomales Bay were acquired and the Bouverie Audubon Preserve in the Valley of the Moon became an integral part of ACR.

With the fulfillment of acquisition goals and while obtaining them an in-depth education program came into action, physical improvements were made as needed and thousands of people continue to come each year from many parts of the world to visit the Ranch. They depart enriched and return again if possible.

Happy New Year and a heartfelt thanks to the friends of Audubon Canyon Ranch who have made all of this possible.

—BETTY BOYD

## GGAS Office Notes

While GGAS Executive Director Andrea Kieserman was on vacation in early December, Chris Swarth manned the office. He left a chronological list of the calls he received. Interspersed between the normal "Joe Blow wants his address changed to . . ." and "Mary Doe didn't receive her *Gull*" were these cryptic notes:

"Tuscon lister wants Rock Sandpiper," "S.F. bird whistler wants

audience," "Arabian woman has dogs that communicate in a loving way with birds at her feeder," "Sacramento man wants to know on which weekend birds migrate — I told him," "San Diego man wonders if building permit necessary for birdhouse to be built in Berkeley."

## GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

### For GGAS

#### In memory of

Alice Radcliffe

#### Gift of

William Senkus

Aileen Pierson

#### In memory of

Valerie Rhodes

Mr. and Mrs. Don Meisel

### For Audubon Canyon Ranch

#### In memory of

William S. Picher

Aileen Pierson

#### In memory of

Merva Dodson

Jennette Stoll

Myrtis Roper

Muriel Verney

### For Mono Lake Project

#### In memory of

Alice Radcliffe

Robert and Valeria De Costa

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. to Minnie Groshong, Corresponding Secretary, Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2718 Telegraph Ave., #206, Berkeley, CA 94705-1179. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull* as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Corresponding Secretary.



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

Office: 843-2222

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Berkeley, California 94705-1179

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## THE GULL

January 1982

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#### East Bay:

Joyce Davis (524-1506)\*  
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Executive Director, Andrea Kieserman (843-2222)

Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to the GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m.. Joint membership — local and national \$25 per year (individual); \$32 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$6 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$15 per year. Senior citizen individual, \$17, senior citizen family, \$19. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

***The Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.**